

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-16, 20-24, and 26-28 are now pending in this application. Claims 8, 10-12, 14-16, 20-24, and 26-28 are allowed. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully traverse a statement on page 2 of the Office Action. The statement states, "Regarding claim 1, Applicant is claiming in line 5 and 6,...an industrial environment other than a temperature controlled environment, which is unclear to Examiner, because referring to the specification, in paragraph (0006), Applicant is disclosing an Ethernet switch that is configured to operate within a temperature range."

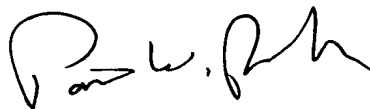
Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 satisfies Section 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art, after reading the specification in light of the figures, would be able to make and/or use the invention as described in Claim 1. Specifically, as an example, the specification states, "In a further embodiment, switch 10 remains operational above a temperature of approximately 55° C...Figure 2 illustrates a known production system 50 including an office (or enterprise) side 52 and a production (or industrial) side 54. As used herein "office side" refers to areas that are environmentally controlled (i.e., an office environment) with heating and air-conditioning such that the temperature therein is maintained within typical human comfort levels. "Production side" refers to all non-office areas including areas outside a building (i.e., an environment other than an office environment also referred herein as an industrial environment) ... More specifically, switch 10 includes a VLAN functionality which allows a virtual separation of single network 76 into multiple 'virtual' separate networks such as a control VLAN 80 and a device I/O VLAN 78...All data transfer from office side 72 to production side 74 passes through control center 82." (paragraphs 14, 32, 35). Additionally, Figure 3 shows an

illustration of a production side 74 including VLANs 78 and 80. Accordingly, the specification describes, for example, that the switch 10 remains operational above a temperature of approximately 55° C. The specification also describes, for example, that switch 10 includes a functionality that allows a virtual separation of production side 74 into VLANs 78 and 80. The specification further describes, as an example, that a production side is referred to as an industrial environment, which is other than an office side that is environmentally controlled to maintain a temperature within the office side. Hence, the specification provides an example of the switch, as is recited in Claim 1, that remains operational above a temperature of approximately 55° C and that separates production side 74 into VLANs 78 and 80, and the production side is an industrial environment, which is other than an office side that is environmentally controlled to maintain a temperature.

As such, Claim 1 satisfies Section 112, first paragraph. Claims 2, 3, and 5-7 depend from independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3 and 5-7 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph and respectfully request that the section 112 rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-7 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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